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14 December 1964

Memorandum for: Mr. Donald S. Macdonald, State S/P

Subject : Comments on first draft of Part One  
of Korea NPP

1. The statement in paragraph 8 that "US interests will best be served by working toward the emergence of a reunified Korea," although intended (as you stated during our 8 December meeting) merely as a statement of long-range interest, still troubles me.

2. It seems to me that the US interest as outlined earlier (in paragraph 5) represents a good position for the long term as well as the short term -

[REDACTED] Not only is this goal the most useful with respect to our Japan policy (i.e., keep it allied with the West), but it is probably the only feasible goal so long as North Korea is Communist. It is difficult to visualize any sort of union of North and South which both we and the Communists could accept. "International guarantees" also seem unrealistic; how would the guarantors handle the inevitable subversion and internal strife which the Communists would foment in order to take complete charge? The guarantors might halt overt warfare, but this, of course, is not the threat.

3. To follow up this line of thinking, I cannot see why unification "is probably a sine qua non for the long-term existence of an independent non-Communist state on the Korean peninsula", as stated in paragraph 9. Korea has been divided in past centuries and survived; it can probably do so again. If the South becomes politically stable and relatively prosperous, how many Southerners would care to risk it all for the dubious benefits of linkage with the North?

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4. These ideas carry over to paragraph 133 of the draft. I would strike the word "vigorously" from the sentence. Let's avoid being run over by the unification issue if it snowballs, but I see no reason to help it along. I would also tone down paragraph 138 along these same lines.

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